

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEL AV 04985 081504Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSM-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01  
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02  
SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 /059 W  
-----104784 090118Z /75

R 081410Z JUL 77  
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7120  
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM  
USMISSION SINAI

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PGOV, PBOR, IS, US  
SUBJECT: EBAN ACCEPTS MISSION TO THE UNITED STATES

REF: TEL AVIV 4952

1. FOLLOWING A MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER BEGIN, ABBA EBAN ANNOUNCED LAST NIGHT THAT HE HAS ACCEPTED THE GOVERNMENT'S REQUEST TO UNDERTAKE AN INFORMATION MISSION TO THE UNITED STATES. BEGIN AND EBAN AGREED THAT EBAN WOULD LEAVE FOR THE U.S. ON JULY 24 OR 25, SHORTLY AFTER BEGIN RETURNS FROM HIS FORTHCOMING U.S. VISIT.

2. PRESS REACTION TO THE EBAN MISSION HAS BEEN MIXED. AL HAMISHMAR (DAHLIA SHEHORI) BELIEVES THAT THE LIKUD IS TRYING THROUGH EBAN TO GIVE LEGITIMACY TO ITS INTERPRETATION OF THE NATIONAL CONSENSUS.

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PAGE 02 TEL AV 04985 081504Z

"PRESENTING A DOVISH EXPLANATION OF A HAWKISH POLICY WILL GIVE A DISTORTED PICTURE TO FOREIGN AUDIENCES," SHE ADDS. WRITING IN DAVAR, AHARON GEVA SAYS THAT EBAN'S MISSION WILL PERPETUATE THE EXISTING CONFUSION BETWEEN THE ALIGNMENT AND THE LIKUD POSITIONS WHICH WAS A FACTOR IN THE FORMER'S ELECTION DEFEAT. ON THE OTHER HAND, YIZHAR SMILANSKI, ALSO WRITING IN DAVAR,

SAYS "THE U.S. IS ISRAEL'S MAIN PROBLEM TODAY; THE ARABS COME NEXT." HE SAID THAT SHORT-SIGHTED PARTY LOYALTIES ARE DANGEROUS AND ANYONE WHO WILL BE LISTENED TO IN THE U.S. SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED TO GO THERE AND SPEAK.

3. ALTHOUGH THE ALIGNMENT'S KNESSET FACTION VOTED TO EAVE TO EBAN THE DECISION OF WHETHER TO ACCEPT THE BEGIN/DAYAN OFFER (LARGELY INFLUENCED BY PERES' SYMPATHETIC REACTION TO EBAN'S WISH TO GO), THE MOOD IN THE LABOR PARTY WAS PREDOMINANTLY NEGATIVE. THE PROPOSAL SMACKED TOO MUCH OF THE DAYAN CROSS-OVER AND AGAIN CAUGHT THE ALIGNMENT SOMEWHAT OFF BALANCE-- BEFORE THEY HAD REACHED A POLICY ON HOW TO DEAL WITH THE GOVERNMENT'S FOREIGN POLICY. ALTHOUGH PERES UNDERSTANDS EBAN'S DILEMMA AND WANTED TO AVOIT PUTTING EBAN IN A CORNER BY OPPOSING THE MISSION, HE, TOO,S REPORTEDLY UNHAPPY WITH IT. THE ALIGNMENT MAY YET OFFICIALLY COMMENT ON THE SUBJECT. IT IS EXPECTED TO BE DISCUSSED NEXT WEEK AT MEETINGS OF THE ALIGNMENT KNESSET FACTION AND THE LABOR PARTY EXECUTIVE.

4. DISCUSSING WITH US THE DIFFICULTY EBAN MAY HAVE IN MAKING CLEAR TO AMERICAN AUDIENCES THE DISTINCTION BETWEEN HIS VIEWS AND THE GOVERNMENT'S, LABOR MK MICHAEL HARISH THOUGHT MUCH WOULD DEPEND ON THE RESULTS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 TEL AV 04985 081504Z

OF THE BEGIN VISIT. HE THOUGHT THAT IF IT BECOMES CLEAR THAT BEGIN HAS FAILED TO EASE U.S. PRESSURE FOR A RETURN TO THE 1967 LINES AND A PALESTINIAN HOMELAND, EBAN'S PRESENTATION WILL CONCENTRATE ON THE NATIONAL CONSENSUS CONCERNING THESE ISSUES; WHEREAS A SUCCESSFUL BEGIN VISIT WILL LEAVE EBAN FREER TO EXPRESS ALIGNMENT-LIKUD DIFFERENCES ON THE ELEMENTS OF A SETTLEMENT. LEWIS

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**TAGS:** PGOV, PBOR, IS, US, (EBAN, ABBA)  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009